

Plot

Exposition

Conflict

Complication(s)

Rising Action

Climax

Falling Action

Resolution

Setting

Time

Place

Background

Point of View

Who's telling the story?

Theme

The story's message

The Short Story

Title _____

Author _____

Character

Dialogue

Character Traits

Personality

Appearance

Mannerisms

Character

Dialogue

Character Traits

Personality

Appearance

Mannerisms

Vocabulary

Summary

Literary Devices

Reflections/Notes

Short Story Analysis

1. Discuss the plot of the story (brief summary, define major plot points—refer to Freytag's pyramid. What feelings are created by the writer's plot? What feelings are created by the conflict and how it is resolved?)
2. Discuss setting (time period, place, costumes, time elapsed over course of story, significance of setting).
3. Discuss and analyze title, opening line, and closing line of story (what can be inferred from title, why are the opening and closing lines particularly significant).
4. Discuss major theme/s in story (What is the message of the story? What is the author saying about society and/or human nature? What attitude does author have about message?)
5. Discuss diction (analyze language and style of work, what type of language is used, sentence structure, select words with strong connotations and why author would choose selected words, how does his/her diction contribute to tone of story?)
6. Discuss the character of _____. How is s/he characterized (looks, age, activities, temperament, directly/indirectly, static/round, dynamic/flat, etc.)?
7. Discuss the imagery in the text (the pictures that a writer creates, figurative language; note his/her descriptive details in the setting such as: colors, objects, weather, seasons, use of light or darkness, etc.)
8. Discuss the examples of irony in the story (explain examples, type of irony, and purpose).
9. Discuss the symbols in the story (what are they, how are they symbols, author's purpose in including them as symbols).
10. Quote selection (choose several important quotes from story and discuss/explain significance of selected quotes--why did you choose them, what insight to the text do the quotes provide).

